(c) There are 20476 Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in Madhya Pradesh, out of which 3903 are in urban areas. All FPSs in Madhya Pradesh are run by cooperatives and Panchayats.

In Chhattisgarh there are 10242 Fair Price Shops (FPSs) run by Gram Panchayats, Primary Agricultural and other Co-operative Societies, Self Help Groups of Women, etc.

No FPS in Madhya Pradesh or Chhattisgarh is being run by Private persons.

Import of wheat

1998. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first tender to import wheat from foreign countries was invited in June/July, 2006 and if so, the details of rates quoted by each party;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government scrapped the said tender and if so, what were the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the same companies were given order at Rs. 16 per kilogram for 7.9 lakh tonnes of imported red wheat in August, 2007 and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir in view of (a) & (b) above.

Target to procure foodgrain

1999. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated target to procure foodgrain for the Central pool in the ongoing paddy season;

(b) the steps taken by Government to meet the target; and

(c) how much paddy Government has procured, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Since procurement of foodgrains under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations carried out by Government agencies is open-ended, no targets are fixed. However, based on estimates given by St[illegible] Food Secretaries, the procurement of rice in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2007-08 w[illegible] estimated at 276 lakh tonnes.

(b) The steps taken by Government to maximize procurement are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The actual procurement of rice by Government agencies for the Central Pool in KMS 2007-08 is 93.45 lakh tonnes as on 3.12.07.